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28 August 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Department review completed

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28 August 1964

DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: (As of 0500 EDT--1700 Saigon)
The situation remains precarious.

Buddhist and Catholic leaders in Saigon have issued a joint appeal for order. The new ruling triumvirate, Generals Minh, Khanh, and Khiem, has also appealed for an end to violence. Armed groups of Buddhists and Catholics are still roaming Saigon streets but, thus far, there has been no serious outbreak of violence reported today.

In the north of the country, Buddhist and student leaders also have been trying to discipline their followers. The danger of a new flare-up in the city of Hue is particularly great. A group of Hue University professors, who appear to exert strong influence over local students, has presented the US Consulate a petition demanding that the US withdraw support from Khanh.

The practical administration of the government under the triumvirate is still unclear. Although General Khiem has stated that Khanh continues to be acting premier, civilian Deputy Premier for Finance Oanh has told the US Embassy that he is slated to become premier upon Khanh's resignation, which he claims is imminent.

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Indonesia: President Sukarno yesterday for the first time appointed a top Communist party official to an influential position in his cabinet.

Second deputy party chairman Njoto was named one of three ministers "attached to the presidium," a body which consists of the three deputy prime ministers who meet daily and are chiefly responsible for administering the government. Njoto is chief editor of the official Communist newspaper Harian Rakjat, and is generally associated with the more militant party elements as distinct from the moderates led by party chairman Aidit.

The appointment goes far toward meeting the Communist party's long-standing demand for a cabinet post of influence. It appears to give the Communists direct access to the full scope of government administration and an excellent opportunity to influence policy. Since Njoto has not been given a portfolio, however, they will probably claim their demand is still unfulfilled.

The appointment is in line with Sukarno's independence day speech of 17 August which confirmed his accelerated swing to the left during the past 18 months and charted a course close to the immediate objectives of the Communist party.

The naming of Njoto was part of a general cabinet reshuffle involving some dozen changes. Other moves were chiefly at the expense of ministers who have tried to oppose the Communists. Defense Minister General Nasution retains his post, however, and two of the new appointees are said to be among his supporters.

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NOTES

Congo (Brazzaville): The long-rumored purge of moderate cabinet members from the increasingly left-inclined Brazzaville government may be close at hand.

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[redacted]
[redacted] on 26 August the president of the National Assembly demanded that Prime Minister Lissouba "adapt his government to the revolution" within "72 hours." Complete removal of the moderates would probably pre-
sage even sharper attacks on the US for supporting
Tshombé. [redacted]

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India-USSR: Defense Minister Chavan, leaves today for a two-week good-will visit to the Soviet Union, where his principal item of business will be arranging final details on the MIG-21 deal. On such matters as armored and naval equipment, Chavan told Ambassador Bowles that he did not intend to go beyond exploratory talks. He added that recent British offers have reduced the sense of urgency New Delhi had felt on acquisitions for the Indian Navy. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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